

America was founded on the principals of freedoms and liberties. The foundations that have allowed the United States to flourish are laid out by the idea of the American dream. An ideology that anyone from any financial background or family status can work hard and become or do whatever they aspire to. This ideology and freedom has allowed the United States to lead the world in scientific, technological, artistic and ideological developments over the past two centuries. As America continues to grow and the population increases, more and more resources are needed to provide for the consumers demand for products. The freedoms and innovation present in America has led the country into a consumerist society, where many people feel and act on compulsions to purchase more of the newest or next best things. Some would argue that freedom and the idea of the American dream have led people to feel these compulsions and a sense of entitlement. This has led not only many individuals but our country as a whole into states of severe deficit spending. This desire for products, in many cases is done through the constant bombardment of advertising and promoting new products. Many of the things being produced in America are done so in an unsustainable way. This constant demand for more products can be looked at through the scope of sustainability problems. First off the production of these goods requires massive amounts of raw materials which must be either harvested from the earth or produced in facilities in which the waste can be detrimental to the surrounding environment. Also the energy consumed in the harvesting/manufacturing of raw materials, transporting them, manufacturing the goods and then delivering them to markets is another source in which much pollution is added to the atmosphere. The issue at hand is whether or not American culture is in fact a sustainability problem itself.

At a TED talk Niami Klein attempts to illustrate the fact that the current American culture is a sustainability problem.

An introduction to the issue that provides historical perspective, a list of "stakeholders," and a list of subissues that must be addressed to systematically deal with the main issue.

2) An overview of an article representing the "yes" position, describing the argument, the facts used to support it, and the ideological framework.

3) An analysis of the "yes" position that identifies holes in the argument, faulty reasoning, overstatements, and other ways evidence is mishandled.

4) An overview of an article representing the "no" position, describing the argument, the facts used to support it, and the ideological framework.

5) An analysis of the "no" position that identifies holes in the argument, faulty reasoning, overstatements, and other ways empirical evidence is mishandled.

6) An overview of the argument and evidence provided in a third article (of your choice). This paragraph should focus on ways this article challenges or extends the arguments and evidence presented in the articles described previously.

7) A statement of your perspective on the issue and a brief description of what you consider priority actions needed to respond to the issue.

References